

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 PM-07 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 FEA-02 ACDA-19

SCI-06 DRC-01 /189 W

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R 181128Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3281

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: KNESSET DEBATE ON US-EGYPT NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

1. INESSET JUNE 19 IS SCHEDULED TO DEBATE MOTION OF NO CONFIDENCE
SUBMITTED BY LIKUD AND NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) CONCERNING
ISRAELI GOVT REACTION TO PLANNED US SALE OF NUCLEAR
REACTOR AND FUEL TO EGYPT.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, TEXT OF MOTION STATES:
QUOTE... THE US ADMINISTRATION HAS PROMISED TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR
KNOW-HOW AND NUCLEAR FUEL TO EGYPT. THIS PROMISE, WHICH IS
SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, HAS CAUSED PROFOUND CONCERN
FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ISRAEL'S FUTURE SECURITY, BOTH IN ISRAEL
AND AMONG JEWS IN THE US. PROMINENT LEADERS IN BOTH HOUSES
HAVE EXPRESSED OBJECTIONS TO THE INTRODUCTION OF
AMERICAN ATOMIC TECHNOLOGY IN EGYPT.
EXPERTS OF REPUTE HAVE EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THERE IS REAL
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DANGER THAT IN COURSE OF TIME, THE EGYPTIANS MAY USE THIS KNOW-HOW

ALSO FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, GOVT SPOKESMEN-- AND FIRST AND FOREMOST THE FONMIN-- HAVE SEEN FIT TO MAKE STATEMENTS OF REASSURANCE AND ACCEPTANCE ON THIS GRAVE ISSUE, THUS CAUSING SEVERE HARM TO ISRAEL AND ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE PROSPECTS OF THE POLITICAL AND PUBLIC CAMPAIGN FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE SURRENDER OF ATOMIC KNOW-HOW TO ISRAEL'S ENEMIES. UNQUOTE.

3. PRESS REPORTS THAT AGUDA RELIGIOUS FRONT WILL SUPPORT LIKUD AND NRP, THUS PROVIDING MAXIMUM OF 54 VOTES (OUT OF 120 KNESSET VOTES) IN FAVOR OF NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION.

4. COMMENT: WITH NEITHER MOKED NOR RAKAH EXPECTED TO SUPPORT MOTION, GOVT SHOULD EASILY MUSTER SUFFICIENT VOTES TO DEFEAT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION IN PLENARY SESSION, OR REFER IT TO KNESSET FOREIGN AND SECURITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. KNESSET DEBATE HOWEVER WILL CERTAINLY FAN ISRAELI APPREHENSIONS THAT US SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO EGYPT MAY PROVIDE EGYPT WITH CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER, NUCLEAR REACTORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV03281
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740158-0563
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740634/aaaabcyl.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <18 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KNESSET DEBATE ON US-EGYPT NUCLEAR AGREEMENT
TAGS: CVIS, TECH, SF, IS, EG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005